

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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OF THE

LOCAL OFFICE OF HEALTH.



FORTY-EIGHTH

Annual Report

OF THE

Health of Stafford.

CYRIL BANKS,
M.B., B.S., (Lond.), D.P.H. (Sheff.)

1921.

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STAFF

OF THE

Public Health Department.

Medical Officer of Health, etc., etc

(until December 4th, 1921.)

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Inspector of Nuisances

and Lodging-House Inspector, Inspector under the Canal Boats Act, and Inspector under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910.

*JAMES H. DRURY, CERT. R. SAN. INST.,
AND CERTIFICATED MEAT INSPECTOR.

Assistant Inspector of Nuisances :

R. BILL, CERT. R. SAN. INST.

Health Visitor

and Assistant Inspector of Nuisances :

*MISS C. E. SUFFIELD, CERT. R. SAN. INST.,
CERT. CENT. MIDWIVES BOARD.

Matron of Infectious Diseases Hospital:

MISS M. BORTON.

Clerk:

R. FOWELL.

* *Salaries contributed to, under Public Health Acts or by Exchequer Grants. The M.O.H. was also Assistant School Medical Officer (County) ; otherwise all above were whole-time officers.*

TOWN HALL,
HALIFAX,
May, 1922.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Public
Health Committee.*

ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

Although I am no longer your Medical Officer of Health it has been to me a pleasure to prepare the Forty-eighth Annual Report of the Health of Stafford.

Full acknowledgments are due to the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. H. Drury, and the Health Visitor, Miss Suffield, for their share in preparing the report.

The report is given in a slightly different form from the previous ones, in accordance with the latest instructions from the Minister of Health.

Further, the statistics are calculated on the 1921 Census population, as adjusted by the Registrar-General, which makes the comparison with recent years rather difficult. Attention is called to the satisfactory position of the town as regards infectious disease.

The Report is respectfully submitted.

CYRIL BANKS.

REPORT.

I.—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

The Borough of Stafford contains an area of 3,420 acres.

Number of inhabited houses 5801

Number of families or separate occupiers .. 6079

Rateable value £124,965

Sum represented by a penny rate £485

Physical Features and Social Conditions.

These were dealt with in the 1920 report, page 4.

Vital Statistics.

POPULATION.—The Registrar-General returns the population as 29,080 (adjusted Census figure).

BIRTHS.—The number of births registered during the year was 595 (Males 309, Females 286), compared with 622 the previous year.

The birth rate works out at 20·4 per thousand.

Illegitimate births numbered 27 (Males 19, Females 8).

DEATHS.—The total deaths registered as belonging to the district were 324, of which 183 were males and 141 were females. This number excludes those persons who died in Stafford but whose usual place of residence had been elsewhere ; on the other hand, it includes the deaths of Stafford residents who died in other places. The returns are equal to an annual rate of 11·1 per thousand living.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of child-birth (from sepsis 1, from other causes 2), 3.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 births :—

Legitimate 73·9

Illegitimate 74·0

Total 73·9

The following table gives infantile mortality for 1921 and also for previous ten years :—

Year.	Number of Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Births.
1911	69	118
1912	47	80
1913	74	127
1914	56	96
1915	50	95
1916	35	69
1917	33	66
1918	47	102
1919	40	80
1920	41	65·9
Average for Ten Years	49·2	89·9
1921	44	73·9

ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE.—There were 8 deaths registered as due to the Zymotic diseases. The Zymotic death-rate was 0·27 compared with 1·06, the average during the preceding ten years.

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF CORRECTED DEATHS FROM EACH OF THE SEVEN CHIEF ZYMOTIC DISEASES IN THE TEN YEARS
1911 TO 1920 AND IN THE YEAR 1921.

DISEASES	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	Average Annual Number of Deaths in the ten years 1911-1920.	1921
Small-Pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles ..	5	7	1	15	2	3	1	15	..	..	4.9	1
Scarlet Fever ..	3	..	..	..	3	3	2	..	..	..	1.1	..
Diphtheria ..	3	..	..	..	..	6	23	13	12	10	6.9	..
Whooping Cough ..	1	1	..	8	4	2	6	..	1	1	2.4	1
Fever { Typhus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	0.3	..
Continued	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoeal Diseases	41	2	12	11	7	1	12	3	..	1	9.0	6
Total ..	53	12	13	35	16	16	44	32	13	12	24.6	8
Zymotic Death-rate per 1,000 living ..	2.42	0.54	0.57	1.52	0.77	0.74	1.86	1.32	0.48	0.43	1.06	0.27

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.—There were 30 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, with an annual rate of 1·03 per 1,000. The average for the preceding ten years was 28·5, with a rate of 1·23 per 1,000.

Year.	Number of Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.
1911	38	1·73
1912	26	1·17
1913	27	1·19
1914	25	1·08
1915	37	1·78
1916	24	1·12
1917	19	0·8
1918	34	1·4
1919	25	0·94
1920	30	1·08
Yearly Average 1911–1920.	28·5	1·23
1921	30	1·03

(The actual number of deaths in 1921 from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was the same as in 1920 but the rate per thousand differs, because it is calculated on a revised population.)

II.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.

During the year the town water supply has been extended to the Borough boundary at Doxey, so that it is no longer necessary for the inhabitants to drink the well water which is of such impure character. Up to December 31st the number of houses at Doxey which had become connected to the town supply was 33.

Closet Accommodation.

There are 3,738 water-closets with flushing cisterns and 2,364 waste-water closets in the Borough. The number of pail and midden privies remains about the same, 30, in out-lying houses.

The waste-water closets still continue to give a great deal of trouble in stoppages. Out of 2,229 stoppages, 1,804 were waste-water closets.

Refuse Disposal.

Suitable galvanised iron bins for household refuse are becoming more generally used. The Department has paid

considerable attention to this matter during the year and 116 notices have been served calling on the owners of property to provide such receptacles.

Sanitary Inspection.

Mr. J. H. Drury, the Sanitary Inspector, presents the following table, summarising the routine work of the year. The remarks made in the last Annual Report in regard to this work still stand true, and the great amount of routine sanitary work which is being carried on, as shown by the table, is worthy of note.

	Number of		Notices.		Nuisances abated.	
	Inspec- tions.	Defects.	Inspec- tor.	Autho- rity.	Inspec- tor.	Autho- rity.
Visits to dwelling-houses	2801	—	—	—	—	—
Houses requiring clean- ing	4	4	4	—	2	—
Structural defects ..	64	64	52	17	35	15
Housing of Working- Classes Act	591	—	39	16	25	5
Lodging-houses	11	3	3	—	3	—
Factories & Workshops..	124	30	18	—	16	—
Dairies and Milkshops ..	13	1	1	—	1	—
Cowsheds	50	20	13	—	11	—
Bakehouses	65	9	9	—	9	—
Slaughterhouses	553	28	28	—	28	—
Fried Fish Shops.. ..	29	9	9	—	9	—
Canal Boats	2	—	—	—	—	—
Ashpits and want of re- ceptacles for refuse ..	118	118	116	37	65	35
Deposits of refuse and manure.. .. .	9	9	9	—	9	—
Water closets	99	99	82	20	66	19
House drainage defects ..	63	63	57	7	55	7
Water supply	103	—	—	—	—	—
Animals improperly kept	5	5	5	—	2	—
Offensive trades	23	—	—	—	—	—
Defective yard pavements	2	2	2	—	2	—
Other nuisances	4	4	3	1	2	1
Closet stoppages cleared	—	2229	—	—	—	—
	4733	2697	450	98	340	82

Unwholesome food:—

Number of surrenders	114
„ „ seizures	0
Condemned by Magistrate	0
Prosecutions for exposing for sale ..	0
Convictions „	0

Precautions against Infectious Disease:—

Lots of infected bedding disinfected or destroyed.. ..	114
Houses disinfected after infectious disease.. ..	103

Miss Suffield, the Health Visitor, in addition to her other duties, carried out inspections in 10 houses, 23 factories, and 21 workrooms where women were employed, and reported 16 defects in houses, 10 in factories, and 3 in workshops.

Premises and Occupations which Can be Controlled by Bye-laws.

Cowsheds	..	..	..	..	..	17
Milkshops	..	..	..	..	..	15
Common Lodging-houses	..	..	..	..	..	5
Offensive Trades	..	..	..	..	..	5
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	20

There are no Bye-laws in force in the Borough in regard to houses let in lodgings and offensive trades, and there is no need for regulations in regard to underground sleeping rooms.

Factory and Workshops Acts.

INSPECTIONS.—Twenty-two inspections of Factories and 102 of workshops were made. Thirty-nine defects were discovered, which were remedied as a result of action taken (including 7 written notices).

HOMEWORK.—Lists of outworkers were received as follows :—

Wearing Apparel (making) :—

(Twice a year), 16 lists relating to 50 workmen.

(Once a year) three lists relating to 14 workmen.

Umbrellas (twice a year) two lists relating to two workmen.

No prosecutions were necessary, and there was no case in which outwork was carried on in infected or unwholesome premises.

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.—The workshops on the Register at the end of the year were :—

Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	20
Boot Making and Repairing	..	..	..	..	41
Dressmaking	..	..	..	..	10
Tailors	..	..	..	..	12
Milliners	..	..	..	..	18
Cycle and Motor Repairing	..	..	..	..	10
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	83
Total	..	..	..	..	194

Sanitary Conditions on Show and Fair Grounds.

The need for the provision of suitable sanitary conveniences on Stone Flat and other grounds used by travelling shows was dealt with in the last Annual Report. The Department kept a close watch on such grounds during the year 1921 and brought the matter to the notice of the persons concerned. Some success was met with, temporary conveniences being erected in some instances by the proprietors of the shows ; but there is still need for a higher standard of sanitation. The subject will continue to receive the attention of the Department. .

Administration of the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order.

There are 17 cowkeepers and 15 milksellers registered within the Borough. Fifty visits were paid to the cowsheds and 13 to the milkshops, and in each case the occupier's attention was called to the requirements as to cleanliness and limewashing ; these were complied with.

Meat.

The total amount of meat condemned during the year as unfit for human consumption was 11 tons $2\frac{3}{4}$ cwt. from 111 carcasses, classified as follows :—Oxen, 79 ; sheep, 12 ; pigs, 13 ; calves, 5 ; frozen beef, 2. In 33 cases the reason for condemnation was tuberculous disease in various forms.

During the year 617 specimens of tinned food and 3 baskets of eggs were condemned and surrendered as unfit for food.

Classification of Slaughterhouses.

		In 1914.	In Jan., 1921.	In Dec., 1921.
Registered	..	13	10	9
Licensed	..	12	11	11
		—	—	—
		25	21	20
		—	—	—

III.—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notification of Infectious Diseases.

The following Table shows the number of notifications of the infectious diseases during the year, together with the numbers for the previous ten years. The average for the previous ten years is also given. The mortality from infectious diseases is given under Section I. (Vital Statistics).

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	Average for ten years.	1921
Small-Pox
Scarlet Fever
Diphtheria
Enteric Fever
Erysipelas
Puerperal Fever
Ophthalmia-Neonatorum
Pulmonary Tuberculosis
Other forms of Tuberculosis
Cerebro-Spinal Fever
Poliomyelitis
Encephalitis Leth.
Pneumonia
Dysentery
Malaria

* Yearly average since notification made compulsory.

Scarlet Fever.

The 78 notifications indicate an increase compared with 35 cases in 1920, but the type of disease was very mild, and there were no deaths among Borough residents. Seventy-five of the cases were admitted to hospital.

Diphtheria.

It is satisfactory to note a great decrease in this disease, there being 31 cases of true diphtheria (plus 6 cases notified as, but proving not to be, Diphtheria) compared with a total of 93 cases in 1920. There were no deaths among Borough residents, against 10 in 1920. Thirty-three cases were treated in hospital out of the 37 cases referred to. It is claimed that the strenuous efforts made by the Department to control the spread of the disease were largely responsible for this improvement. Every case notified was regarded as a serious matter and prompt action was taken, on the lines indicated in previous reports, in order to discover the source of infection and to prevent others becoming infected (see 1920 Report, page 17).

Tuberculosis.

Fifty-six notifications were received, of which three related to cases previously notified. Of the 53 primary notifications 40 were of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 13 of other forms of the infection.

Miss Suffield paid 50 primary visits and 374 re-visits to cases of Tuberculosis. Thirty-one consumptives received Sanatorium treatment during the year. Of 37 deaths from all forms of tuberculosis 3 were cases not previously notified.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Notified	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Treated in Hospital	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Treated at home (district nurse in attendance)	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Complete cures (vision apparently normal)	..	..	..	..	..	..	6

Isolation Hospital.

One hundred and thirty cases were admitted—classified as follows :—

Disease.	Stafford Borough.	Stafford Rural District.	Total.
Scarlet Fever	75	7	82
Diphtheria, &c.	33	9	42
Measles..	1	—	1
Scabies	2	—	2
Enteric Fever	—	3	3
Total	111	19	130

There were 3 deaths, two being Diphtheria cases from the Rural District, and one being a temporary resident who was dangerously ill with another disease at the time Scarlet Fever was contracted.

The hospital maintained its high reputation for efficiency, under the Matron (Miss Borton).

IV.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The responsibilities of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee include work described in the following paragraphs :—

Notification of Births Acts.

Births Registered during the year	595
Births notified in accordance with above Acts (Live)	560
Still-births notified	14

Health Visiting.

Miss Suffield, the Health Visitor, supplies the following summary of her visits in regard to infant welfare :—

Births (primary visits)	524
„ (re-visits)	1664
Ante-natal visits	22
Visits to older children	272
Enquiries into infant deaths	27
Infant Life Protection (Children's Act, 1908) ..	38
Unclassified visits	102

Infant Welfare Centre.

This useful institution has carried on its work with increasing success; the nature of its work was described fairly fully in reports for past years. There were no alterations in the routine during 1921 and no fresh developments. The number of mothers and babies attending the centre regularly has become so large as to tax the abilities of the staff, and it may soon become necessary to consider opening the Centre on more than one day each week, or as an alternative to open a branch centre in some district of the town.

Forty-eight consultations held during the year. Two hundred and forty-two new cases were registered. Two thousand eight hundred and forty-one attendances were made, average 60, maximum 120, minimum 31. Thanks are due to the members of the Maternity Committee of the Guild of Social Welfare for regular assistance, also for loan of Maternity Boxes to necessitous cases. Thanks are also due to Miss Bate and the pupils of Tenterbanks School for knitting woollen garments. The Mothercraft Shield (presented by Dr. Blumer) was again the subject of competition and the winning baby's name was inscribed on the shield. Dr. Blumer also presented the mother with a silver miniature shield with the baby's name inscribed.

Free Supply of Milk to Mothers and Infants.

Under the scheme detailed in the last report the supplies of milk were continued to April 16th, 1921.

Between December 12th, 1920, and April 16th, 1921, 241 applications were received, of which 196 were granted (free or at reduced price) and 45 refused.

In July, a new scheme was organised, in accordance with the revised regulations of the Ministry of Health, and between July 10th and December 31st 98 applications were received, of which 93 were granted. Dried Milk only was supplied, and certain conditions were attached, under the new scheme.

V.—MISCELLANEOUS.

1.—Adoptive Acts, &c., in force in the District.

Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.

Baths and Wash-houses Acts.

Stafford Corporation Acts of 1876, 1880, 1896.

It is to be regretted that the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, has not yet been adopted.

2.—Bacteriological Work.

The County Council has an arrangement by which bacteriological examinations in suspected cases of Diphtheria, Tuberculosis, and Enteric Fever are made at the Laboratory of the University of Birmingham. This service has been freely made use of by the Public Health Department and by some of the medical practitioners in the town.

3.—Issue of Diphtheria Antitoxin.

Supplies of Diphtheria antitoxin are available at the public expense for necessitous cases. This is used by medical practitioners for the treatment of cases of Diphtheria, and also for the temporary protection of those who have been in contact with cases of diphtheria, in accordance with a local arrangement made some years ago.

4.—Summary (for reference) of Nursing Arrangements Hospitals, etc., available for the District

Home Nursing.

The general nursing of the district is provided by the Stafford District Nurses' Society, Tipping Street. This society also provides nursing for cases of measles and other ailments of the young in consideration of receiving from the Council an annual grant.

Midwives.

The Council does not employ or subsidise practising midwives. Eight midwives practised in the Borough during 1921, of whom 6 were certificated.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

(a) Maternity and Child Welfare Centre: one centre at Borough Hall provided by Borough Council, and staffed by Public Health Department with assistance from the Guild of Social Welfare.

(b) School Clinic—for minor ailments, dental, ear, nose and throat, and ophthalmic. In Mill Bank. Provided by County Education Committee.

(c) Tuberculosis Clinic—in Mill Bank, provided by Staffordshire, Wolverhampton, and Dudley Joint Committee for Tuberculosis.

Hospitals.

(a) Tuberculosis.—Local cases treated in institutions provided by the Staffordshire, Wolverhampton, and Dudley Joint Committee for Tuberculosis.

(b) Maternity Hospitals.—*Nil*.

(c) Children's Hospitals.—The general accommodation of the Staffordshire General Infirmary, Stafford.

(d) Fever.—The Isolation Hospital, Coton Hill (accommodation nominally 22 beds), is provided jointly by Stafford Borough Council and Stafford Rural District Council.

(e) Small Pox.—Accommodation arranged for at North Staffordshire Joint Small-Pox Hospital, Bagnall.

(f) General.—Staffordshire General Infirmary, Stafford.

(g) Poor Law.—Stafford Board of Guardians, Marston Road.

Ambulance Facilities.

The British Red Cross Society provided a motor ambulance for the use of the town and surrounding district. The ambulance, which is housed in a local garage, is used for general ambulance work and also for infectious cases (subject to disinfection). Application to be made to the Police, Stafford. (Tel. No. 1 Stafford.)

VI.—HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	.. .. .	96
(b) As part of a municipal housing scheme	.. .. .	92

1.—Unfit Dwelling Houses.

Inspection—

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	.. .. .	1794
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	.. .. .	514
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation (previously reported, 91) reported during 1921	.. .. .	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	.. .. .	328

2.—Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notice.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action taken by the Local Authority or their Officers	25
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	16
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—	
(a) by owners	5
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	0

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	567
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—	
(a) by owners	438
*(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	28

C.—Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act., 1919.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ..	0
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* This item represents the numbers of dust bins provided by the Corporation in default of owners.

(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made.. ..	0
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	0
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..	0
(5)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.. ..	0

